

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 41

14p



ASSAULT ON DESTRA

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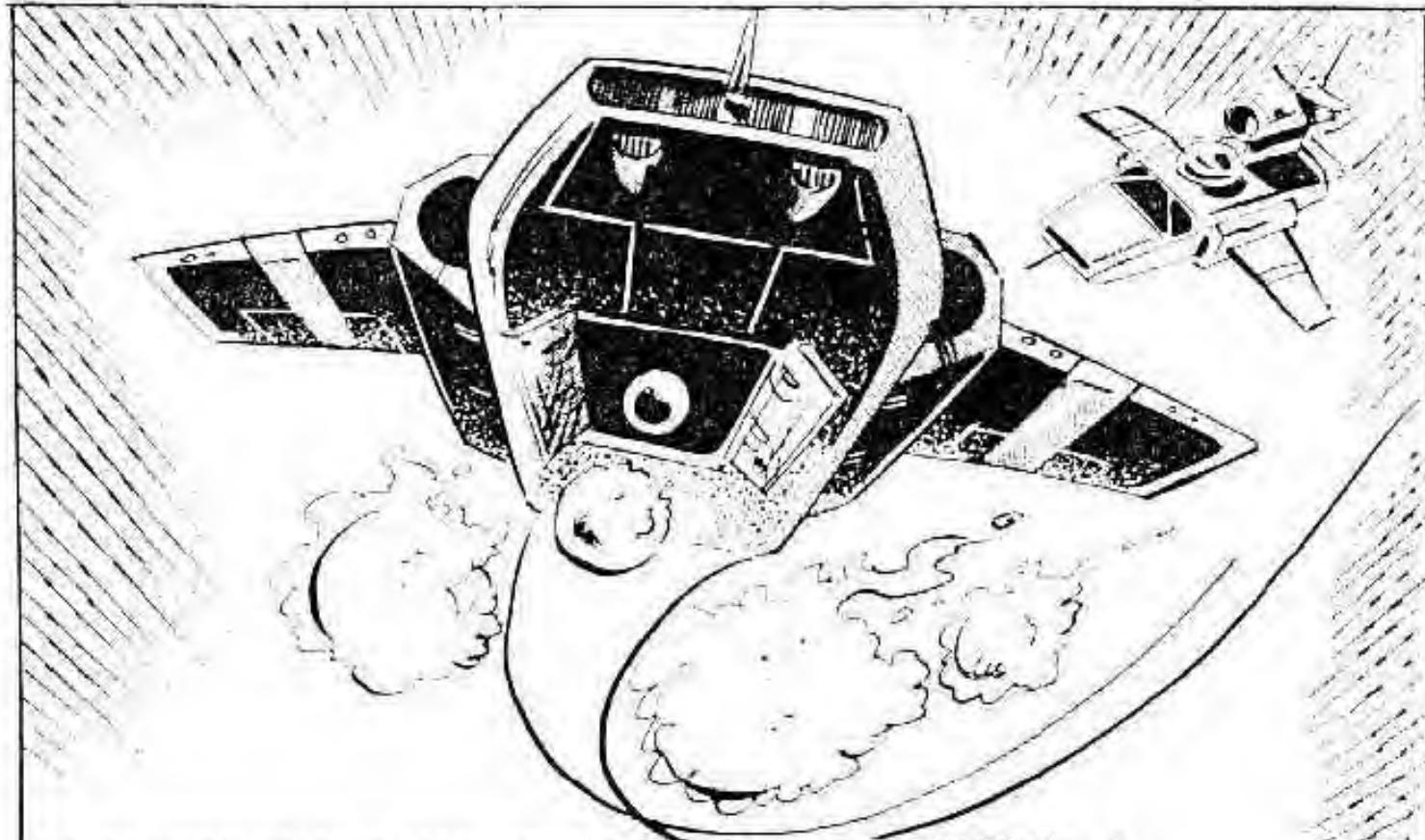
RESTLESS
BANDS OF ADVENTURERS
WARPED ALONG THE SPIRAL
ARMS OF THE GALAXY AND
BUILT SIMPLE NEW CIVILISATIONS
WHERE THEY FELT FREE FROM THE
OVER-CROWDED COMPLEXITY OF
OLD EARTH. BUT TO THE DEFENCE-
LESS COLONY PARADISE OF
PLANET DESTRA CAME A
WANDERING STAR-WARRIOR
BAND LOOKING FOR A READY-
MADE KINGDOM. SO
BEGAN THE ASSAULT
ON DESTRA.

ASSAULT ON DESTRA



DESTRA, AN EARTH-TYPE PLANET IN A STAR-SYSTEM LIGHT YEARS AWAY FROM SOL,
WAS THE UNSUSPECTING TARGET OF AN AGGRESSOR FROM DEEP SPACE.

THE SMALL COLONY OF EARTH SETTLERS WAS TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR THE ATTACK.



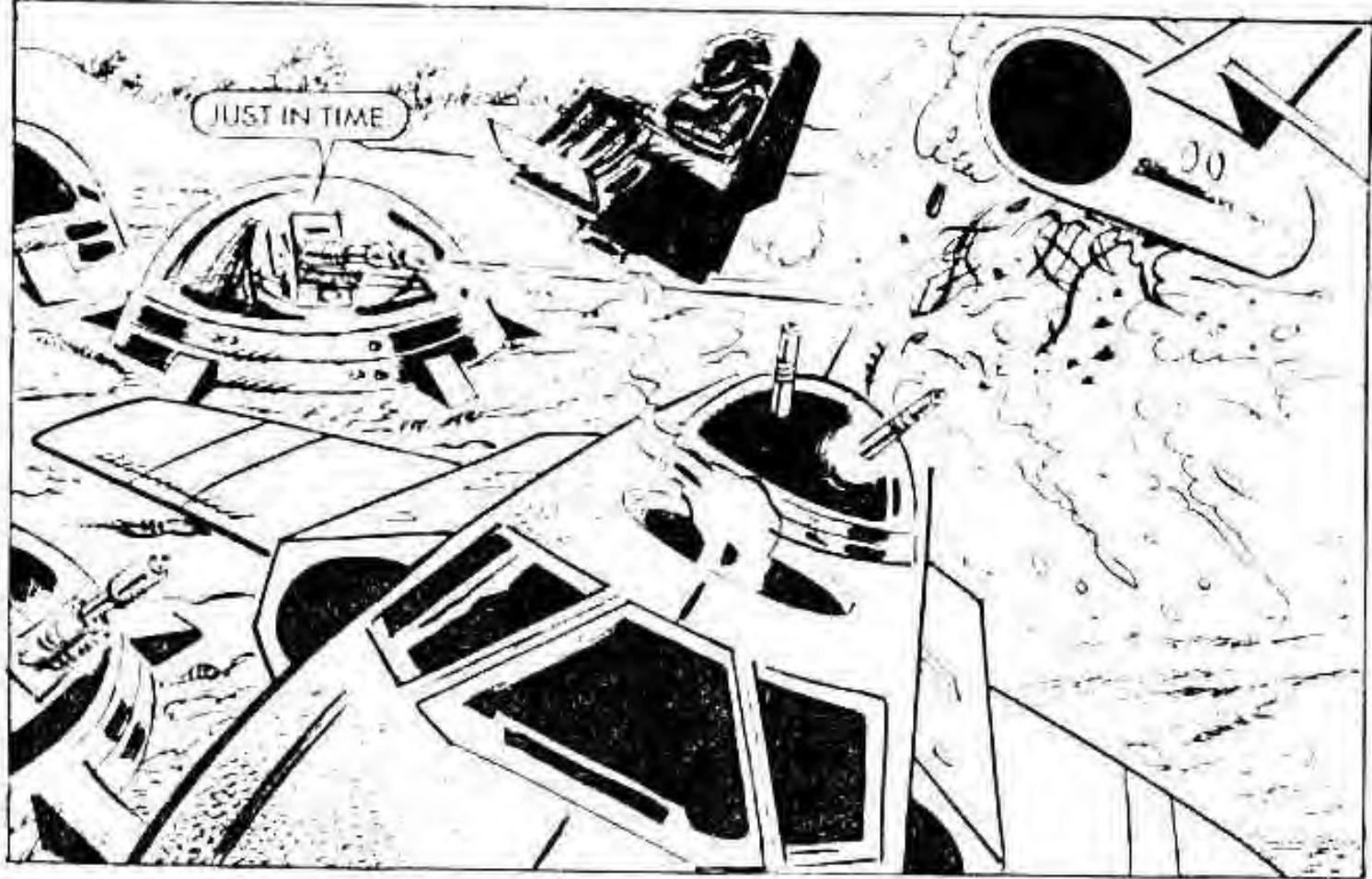
THE INVADING CRAFT RELEASED THEIR DEADLY CARGO OF THERMOGAZ — A SEMI-LIQUID SUBSTANCE THAT FORMED DEVASTATING FIREBALLS ON IMPACT

A RUNI SOUND GENERAL ALARM.
MAN THE ANTI SPACECRAFT CANNON.



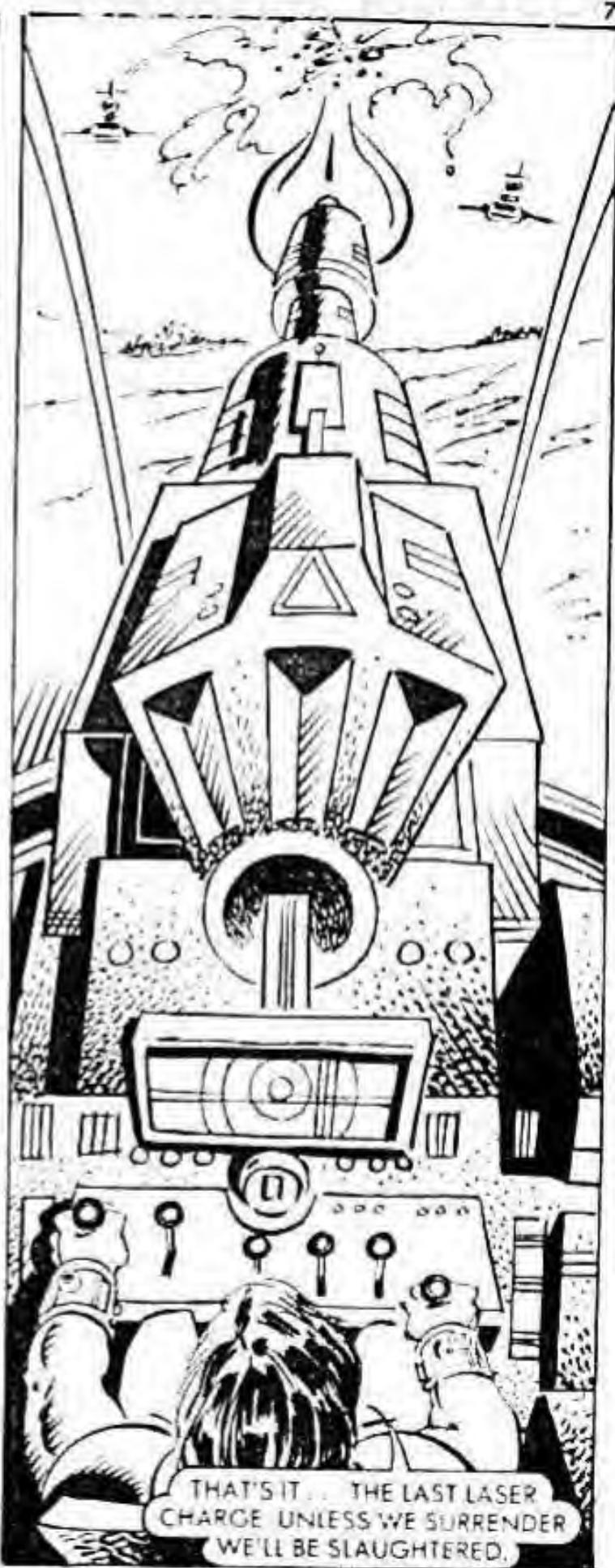
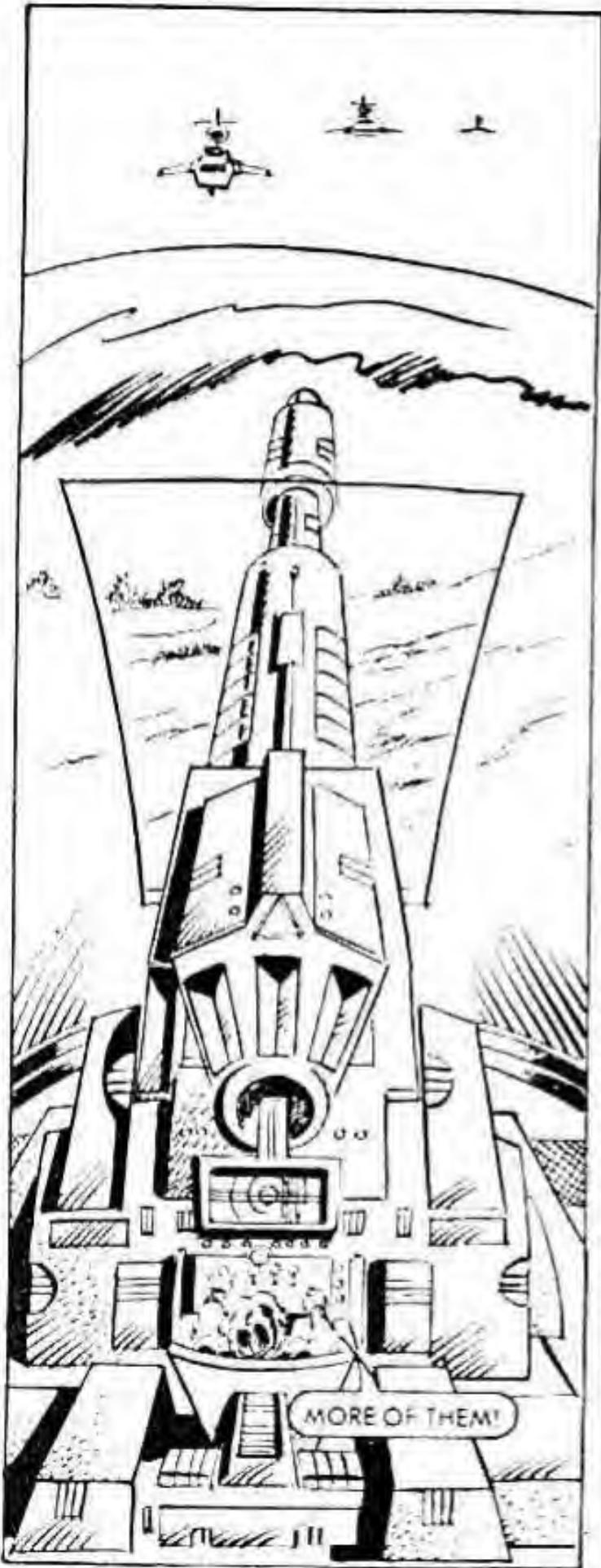
A YOUNG COLONIST, PHIL MARSSON, RAN TOWARDS HIS GUN POST.





HE SHOT DOWN ONE ATTACKER AND THE PILOT EJECTED.





PHIL MADE HIS WAY TO THE PRESIDENT'S BUNKER. THE PRESIDENT OF DESTRA HAD ALREADY REACHED A DECISION.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN JAMMED, WHOEVER ATTACKED US HAS DESTROYED THE SPACEPORT, BARRACKS, AND ALL OUR CANNON PILLARS. THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO

WHAT ABOUT OUR SHUTTLE CRAFT?

WHAT ABOUT THEM?

WE HAVE POWERFUL NEIGHBOURS ON TRESCA. WHOEVER IS JAMMING COMMUNICATIONS MIGHT NOT HAVE RECKONED ON A BREAKOUT BY A SHUTTLE CRAFT.

THE PRESIDENT AGREED TO LET PHIL TRY.

IT'S UP TO ME NOW.



THE SHUTTLE HAD BEEN USED TO BRING THE COLONISTS DOWN FROM THEIR SPACESHIP. NOW IT WOULD HAVE TO TRY AND CROSS SPACE TO ANOTHER PLANET.

IGNITION AND LIFT OFF!





PHIL'S SHUTTLE CROSSED THE ORBIT OF THE MONSTER STARSHIP.

I HOPE I'M
NOT SPOTTED.





ROGAN, A SPACE TROOPER DISMISSED FOR HIS BARBARIC WAYS, PLUNDERED AND KILLED FOR SADISTIC PLEASURE.

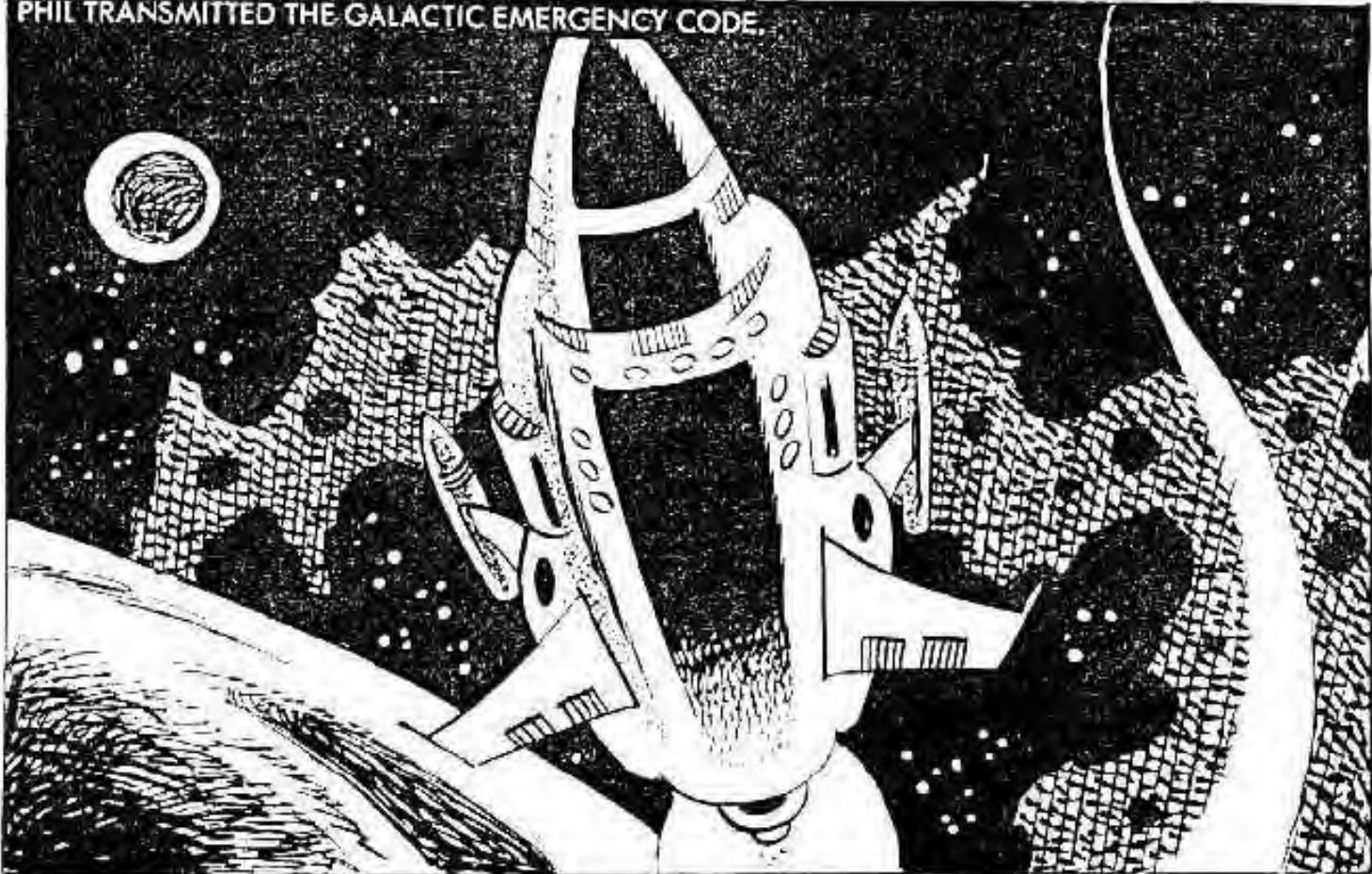




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SEVERAL PARSECS AWAY, PHIL APPROACHED ATMOSPHERIC ENTRY FOR A TRESCAN LANDING.



PHIL TRANSMITTED THE GALACTIC EMERGENCY CODE.



PHIL WAS ESCORTED TO A LANDING CENTRE.

COME WITH ME... MAN OF DESTRA.



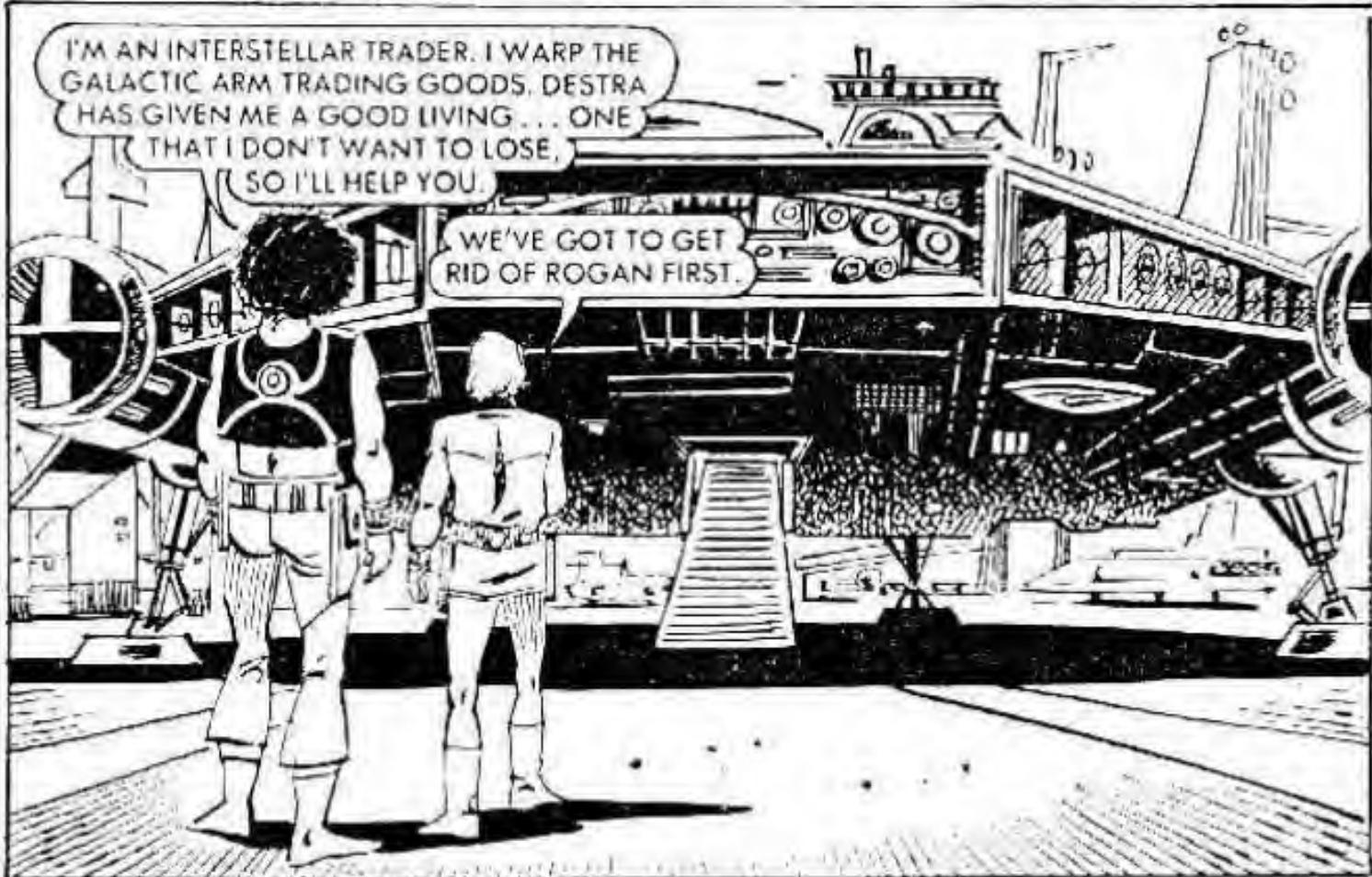
PHIL WAS TAKEN TO AN ADMINISTRATION BLOCK.

DESTRA HAS BEEN OVERRUN BY ROGAN. WE ARE INSUFFICIENTLY ARMED TO PREVENT CONQUEST. WE NEED YOUR HELP.

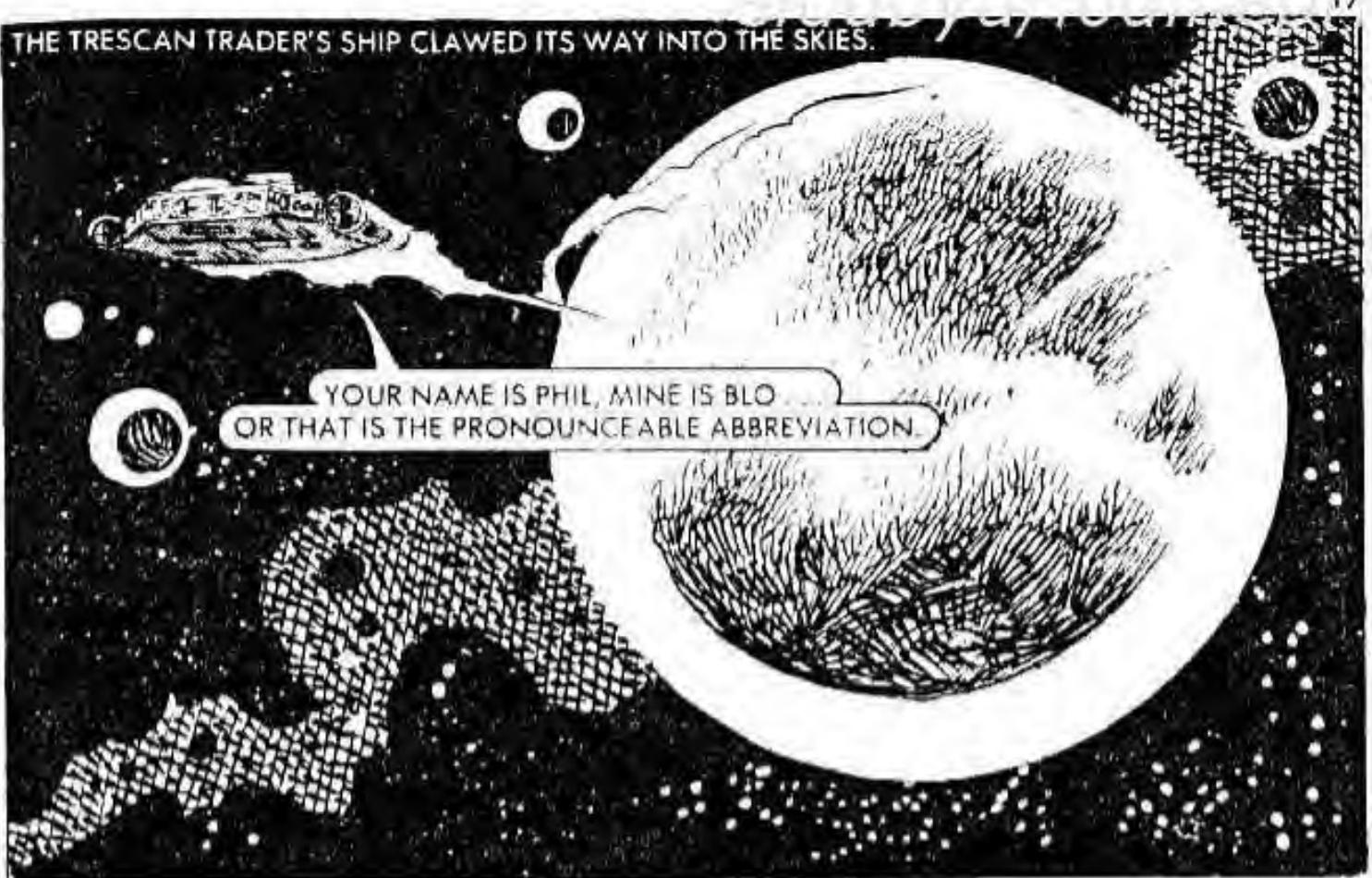
WHY SHOULD WE HELP YOU?







THE TRESCAN TRADER'S SHIP CLAWED ITS WAY INTO THE SKIES.

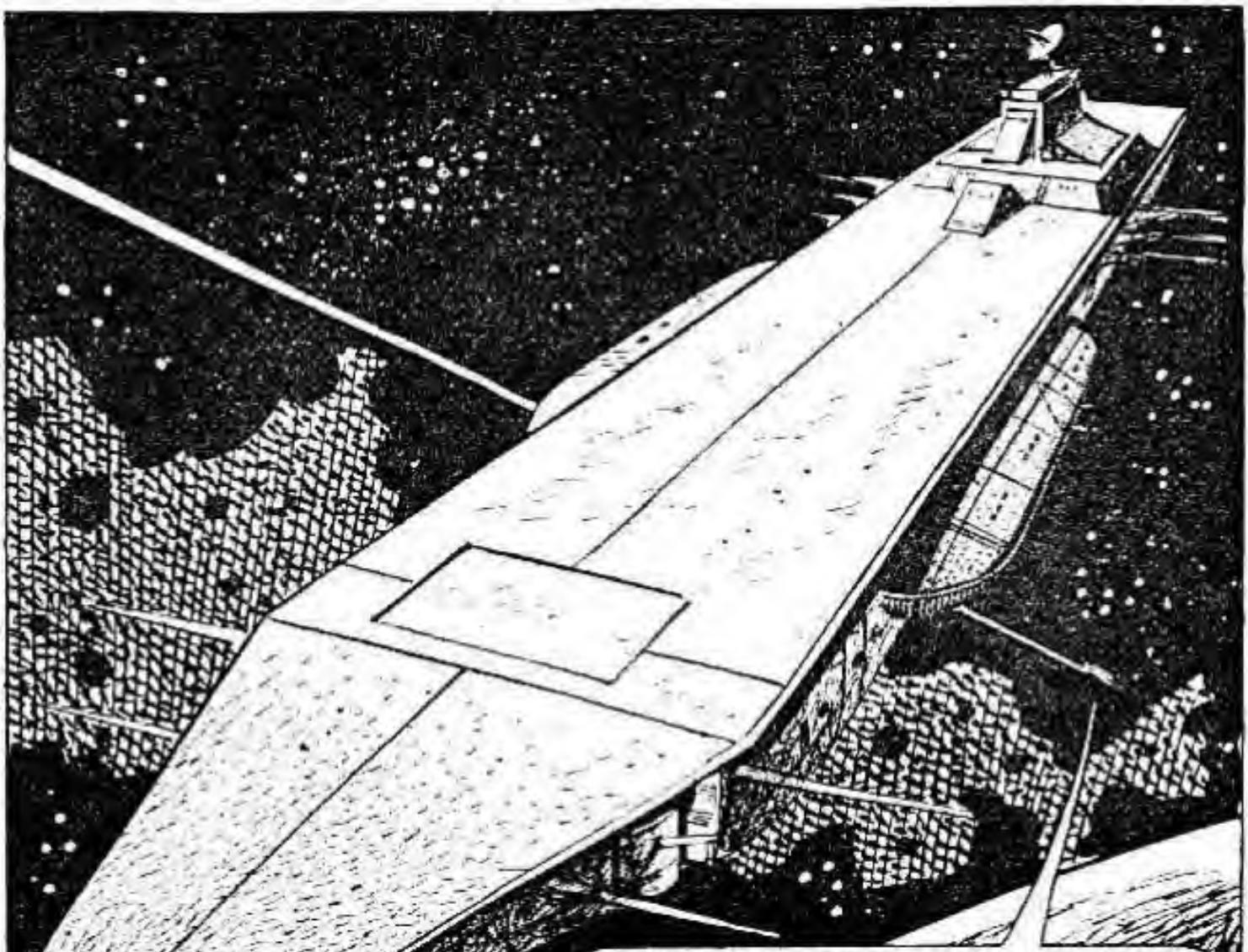


YOUR NAME IS PHIL, MINE IS BLO
OR THAT IS THE PRONOUNCEABLE ABBREVIATION.



HOW ARE WE GOING TO PROVE TO
TRESCA EXACTLY WHAT ROGAN'S
INTENTIONS ARE?

YOU TAKE ME TO WHERE THE INVASION
FORCE IS. I'LL VIDEO-TRANSMIT BACK TO
TRESCA . . . THEY'RE BOUND TO SEND
FIGHTERS TO INVESTIGATE.



NO DANGER! THAT'S THE OLD MAYFLOWER. IT BROUGHT DESTRA'S FIRST COLONISTS FROM EARTH. IT'S PRESERVED IN ORBIT AS A MONUMENT. UNFORTUNATELY SHE'S UNARMED. OTHERWISE IT'S IN FULL WORKING CONDITION!

WITH ANTI-DETECTION SCREENS OPERATING, BLO TOUCHED DOWN IN A DESERTED CORNER OF DESTRA.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

THE NEAREST INHABITED PART.



THEY KITTED UP AND JET-HOPPED OVER THE ROUGH TERRAIN.



ACTIVITY FORCED BLO AND PHIL TO STOP.



CAREFULLY THEY PICKED THEIR WAY BETWEEN THE TOWERS.

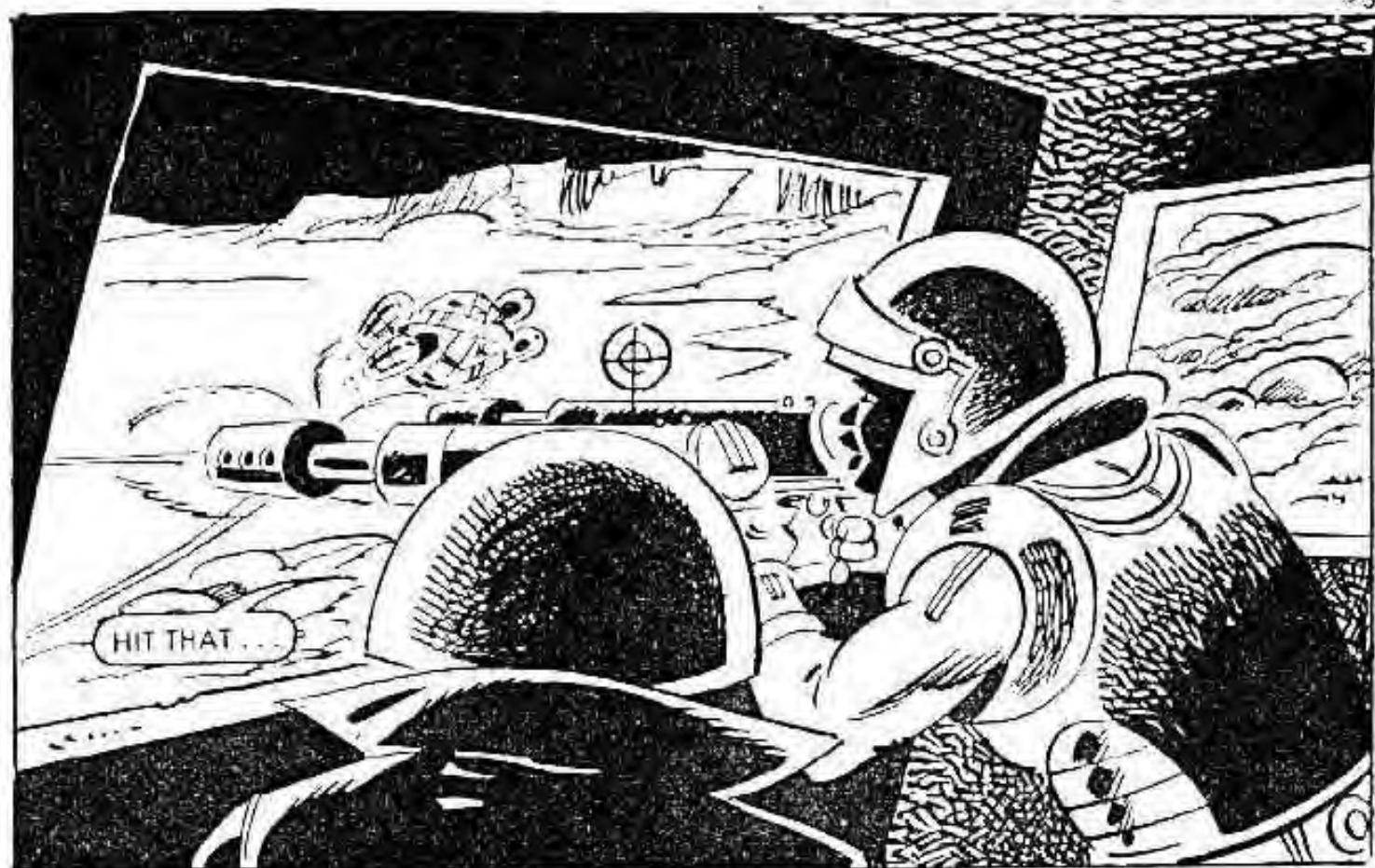




SECONDS AFTER THEY THREW THEMSELVES OUT OF THE BEAM, A SEARING BEAM OF LASER POWER MELTED THE GROUND.







BUT THE IMPROVISED MISSILE FOUND ITS TARGET...



AND WITH A RESOUNDING EXPLOSION, THE TOWER COLLAPSED.



THE FENCE IS BREACHED AND THE GUN OUT OF ACTION.
NOW IS THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE.



THE IMPRISONED DESTRANS BROKE OUT.



NERVE GAS . . . I MUST GET CLEAR
BEFORE IT TAKES EFFECT.





BLO DRAGGED THE DESTRAN PRESIDENT CLEAR.

CRAZY GUNNERS



ROGAN WAS TOLD OF THE RAID.

ONLY ONE ESCAPED—THE
PRESIDENT.

SO WE ARE DEALING WITH PEOPLE WHO DARE
DEFY ME...

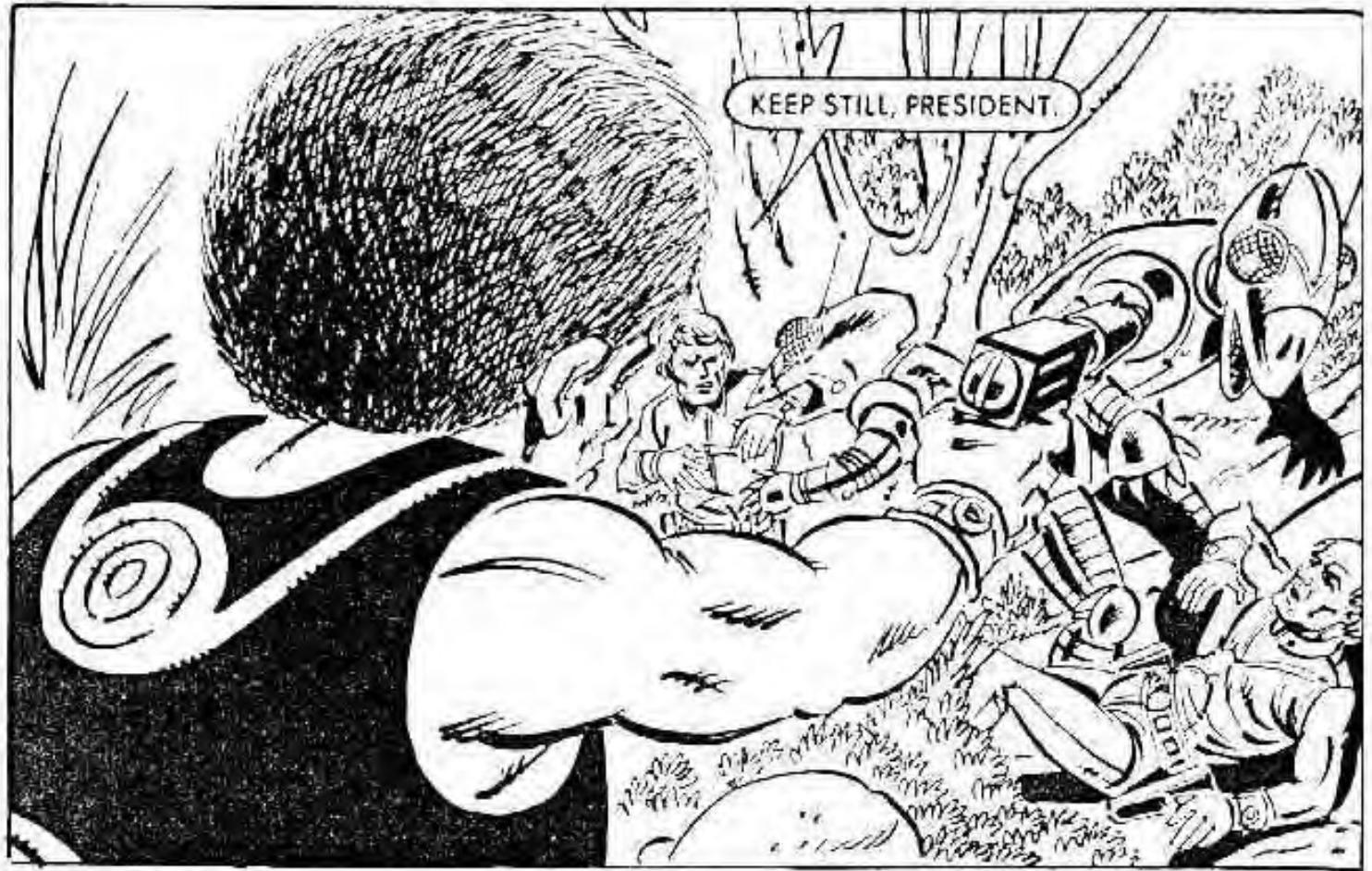






AS THEY PREPARED TO MOVE ON, THE SAVAGE ROBOMORTS ATTACKED.





THEY MUST BE ABLE
TO FOLLOW US SOMEHOW.

THE ROBOMORTS CONTROL DESTRA. YOU CAN
GO NOWHERE WITHOUT THEIR KNOWING.

THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER.





WE'LL HEAD FOR
THE BADLANDS.

THE TRIO MOVED DEEPER INTO THE UNCULTIVATED HEART OF DESTRA. WITH NO SIGNAL TO FOLLOW, THE ROBOMORTS WERE POWERLESS TO FOLLOW.



HOW NEAR IS THE
TRESCAN MAIN FORCE?

I REGRET MY LEADERS DID NOT ANSWER YOUR CALL
FOR HELP. WE THREE ARE THE ONLY FREE MEN ON
DESTRA!

WHILE THE THREE FREE MEN TALKED, ROGAN PONDERED HIS NEXT MOVE.



BLO HAD REACHED A DECISION...

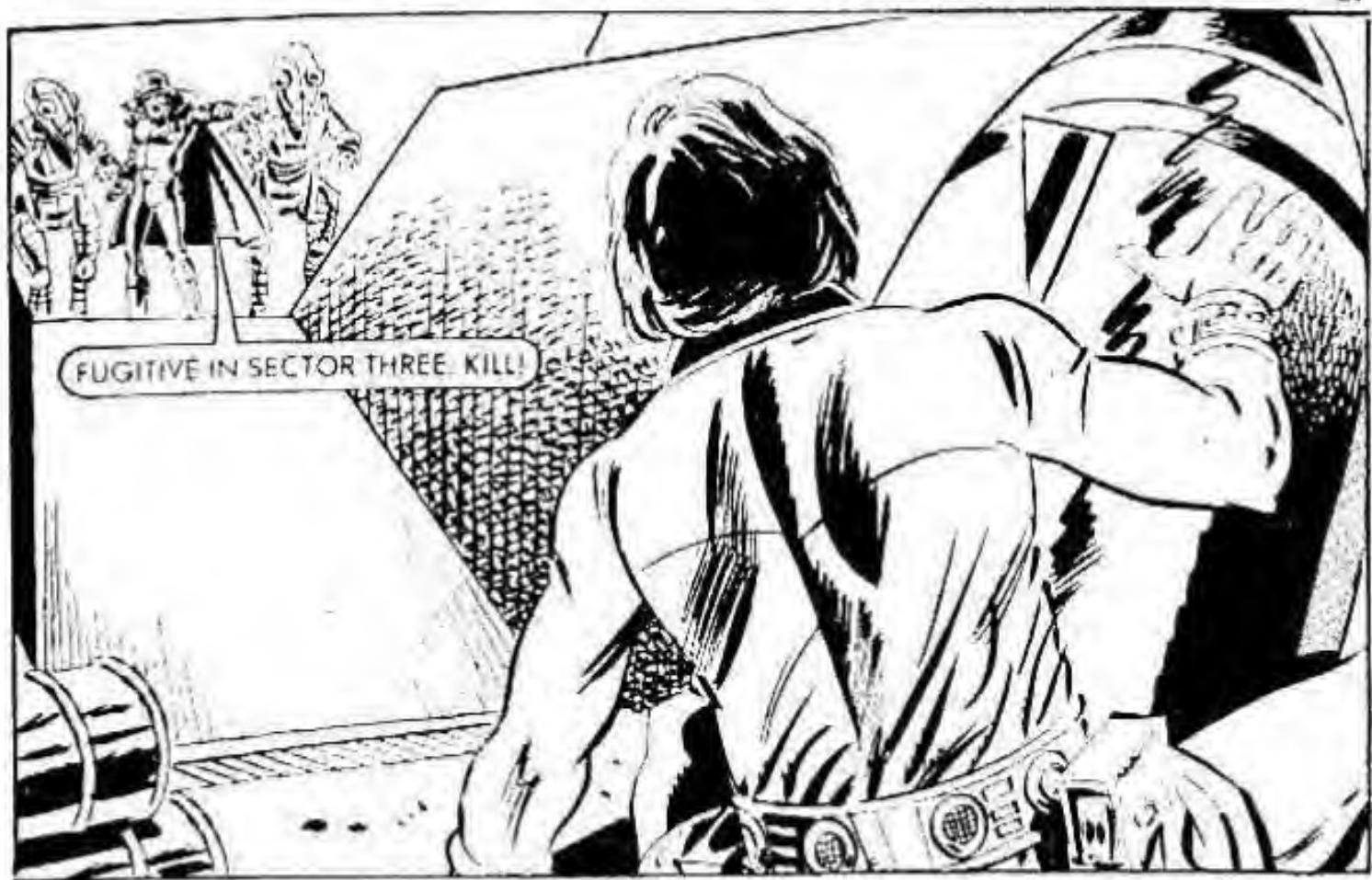
I WANT TO TRANSMIT PICTURES THAT WILL PERSUADE THE
DEFENCE CHIEF THAT TRESCA IS THREATENED

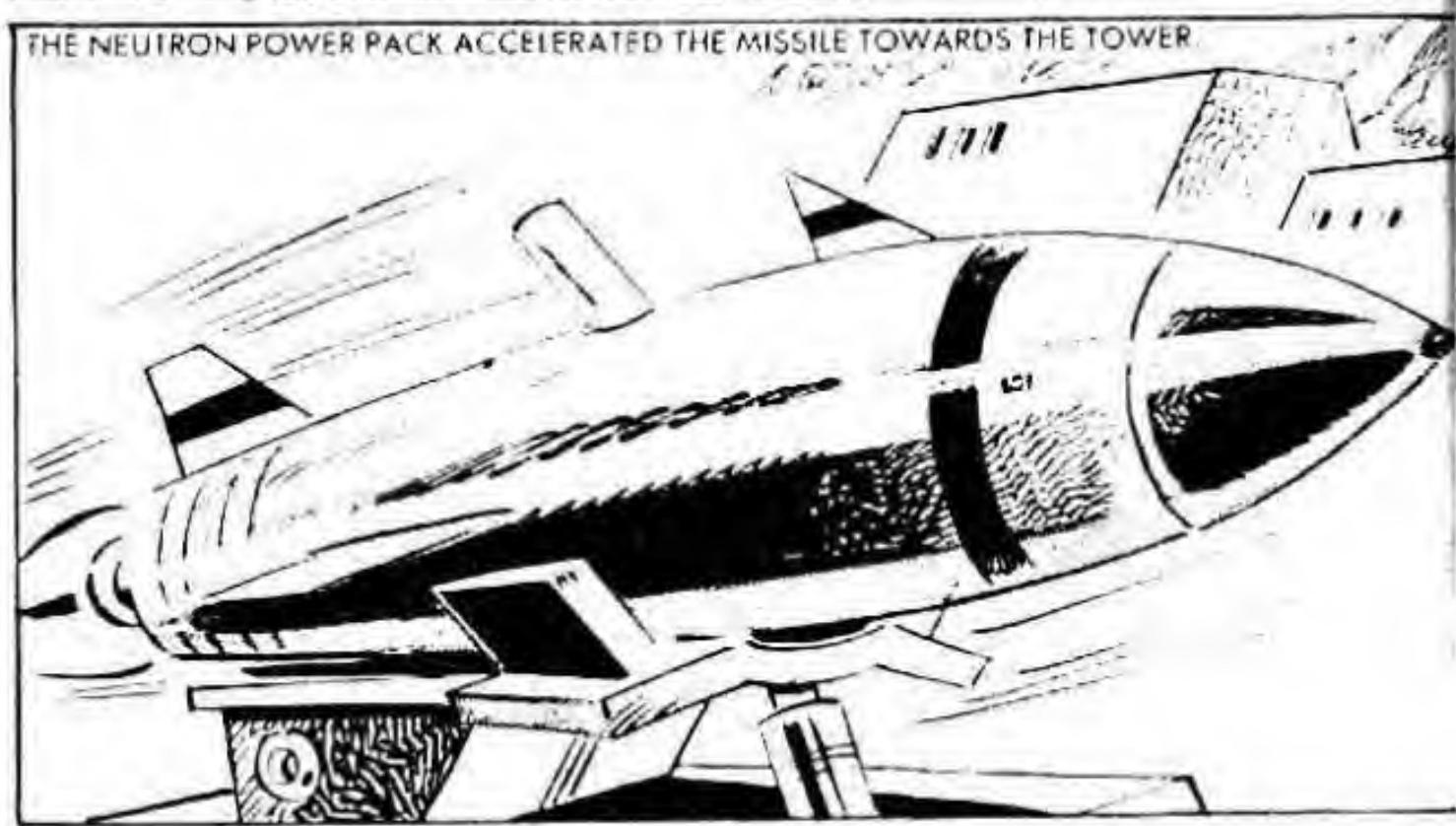
THE MAIN BASE IS
ESTABLISHED NEAR HERE



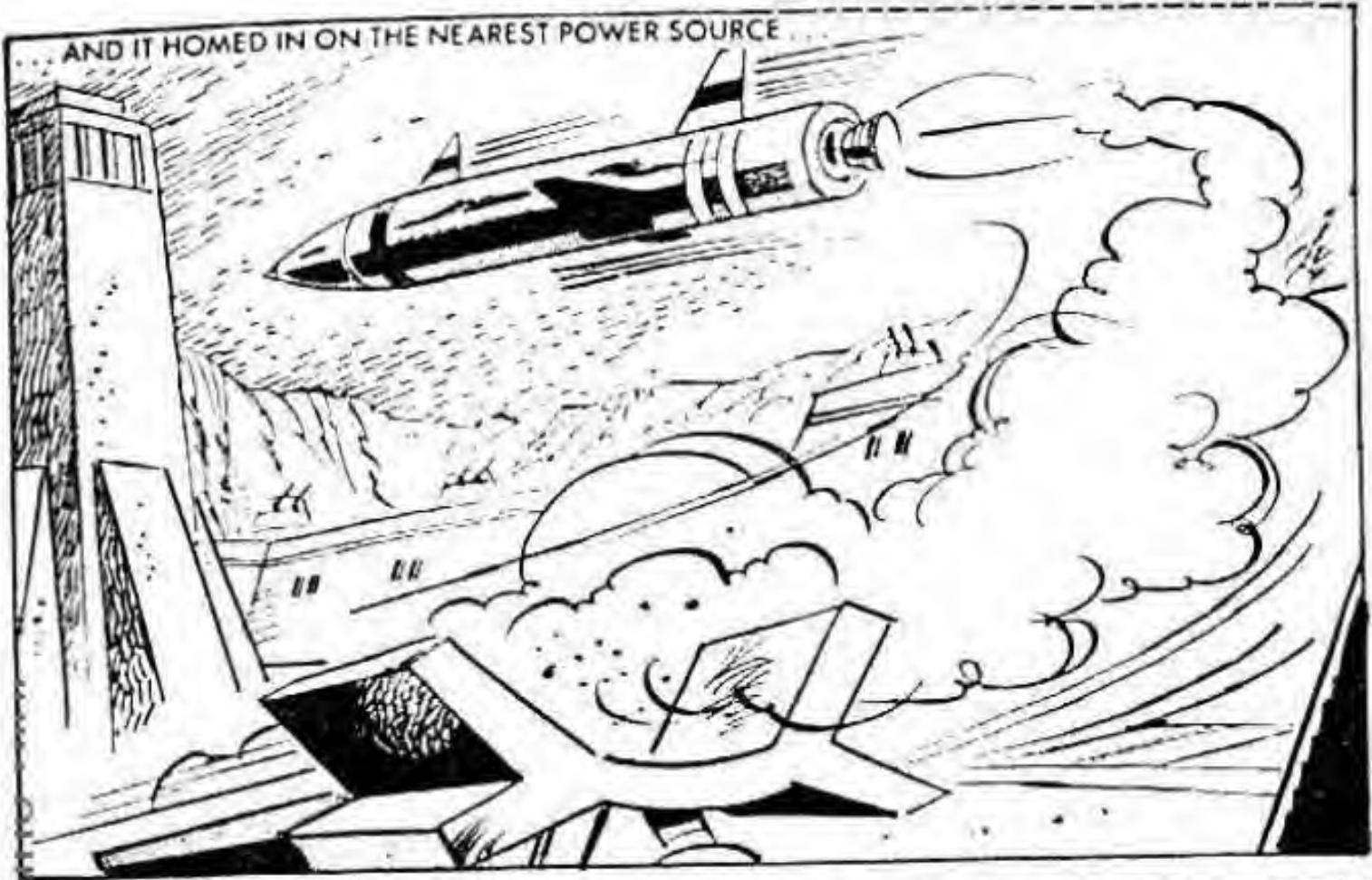








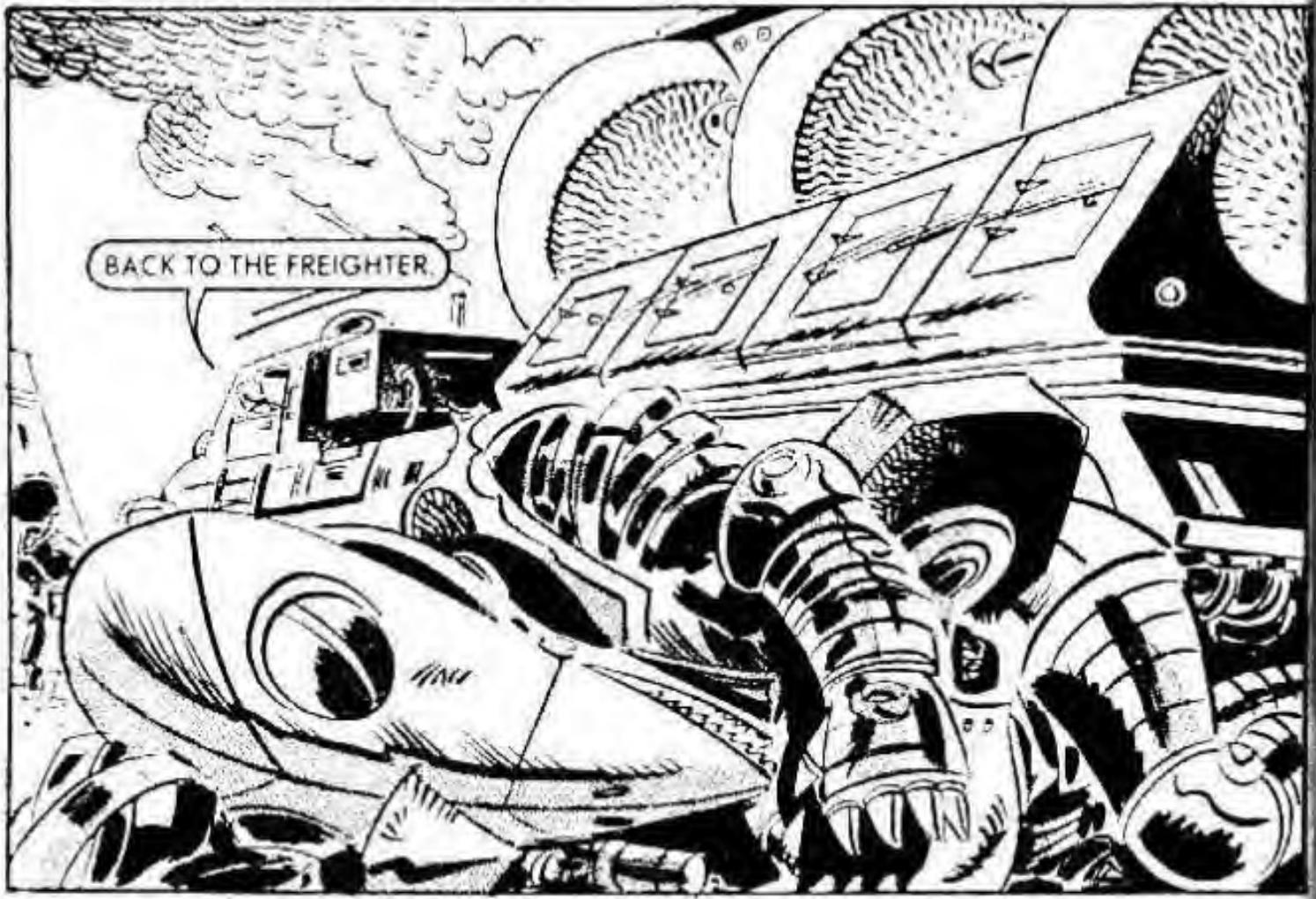
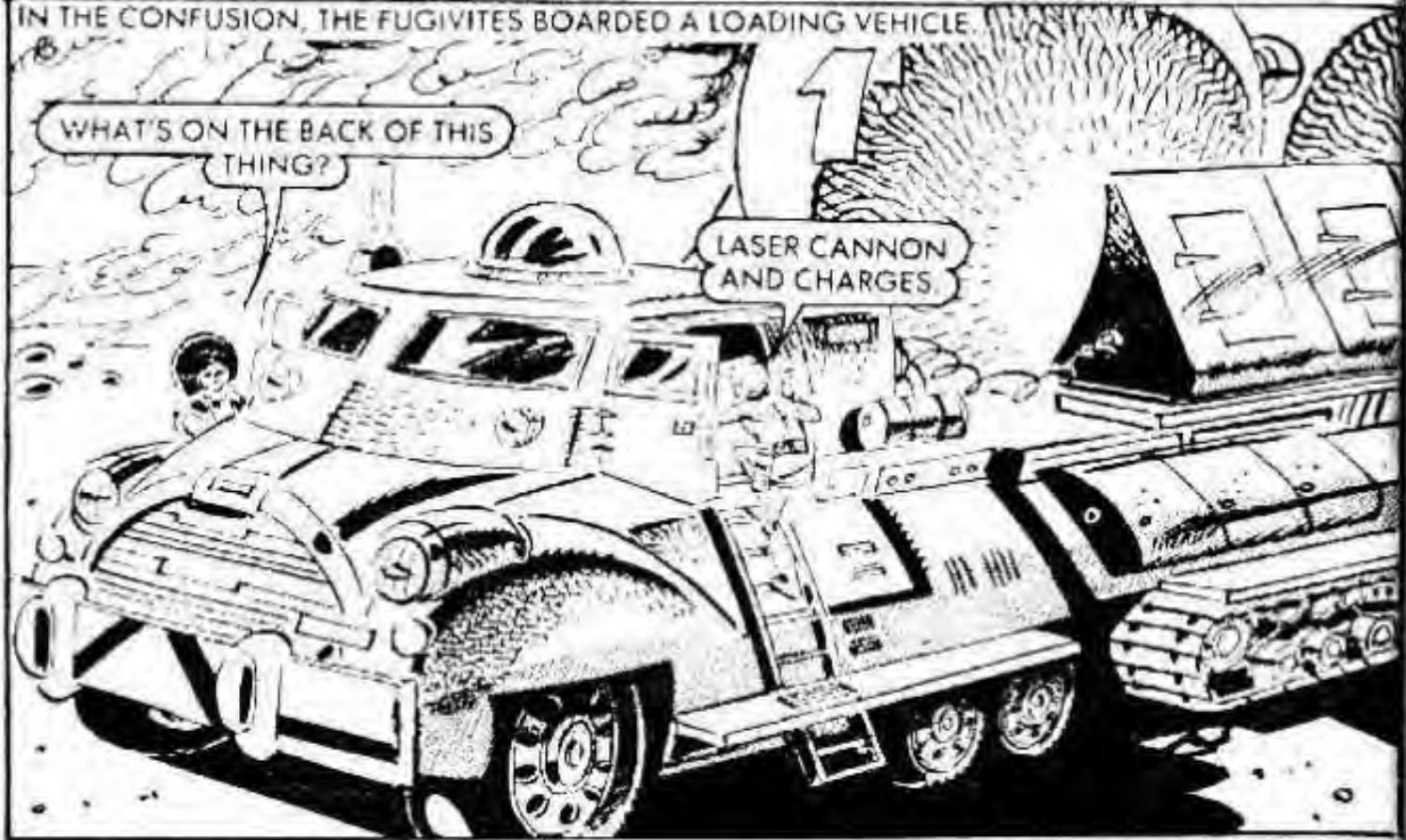
...AND IT HOMED IN ON THE NEAREST POWER SOURCE



TAKE COVER



IN THE CONFUSION, THE FUGIVITES BOARDED A LOADING VEHICLE.



THEIR RETURN JOURNEY WAS UNEVENTFUL.

FINAL DESTINATION THE MAYFLOWER!"

A CONFERENCE OF WAR WAS BEING HELD
IN ROGAN'S H.Q.

I CANNOT OVERWHELM
TRESCA AND LEAVE
MY BACK UNPROTECTED
HERE. WE MUST WIPE OUT
ALL OPPONITION.

SIR... ALIEN VESSEL IN SECTOR
20X17... IT IS BLASTING OFF.



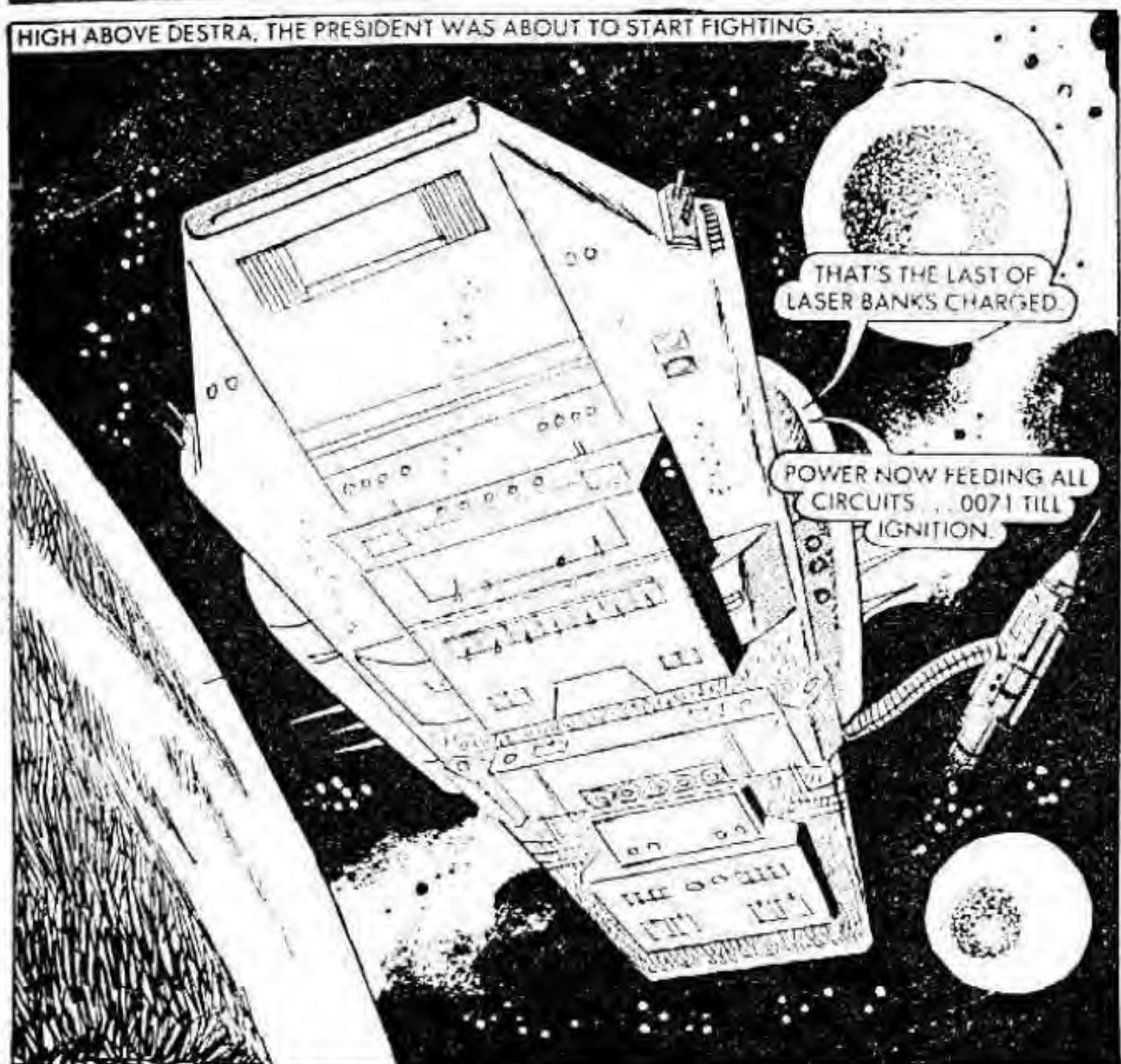
THE PRESIDENT MUST STILL BE
FREE... WE SHOULD BE
FIGHTING BY HIS SIDE.



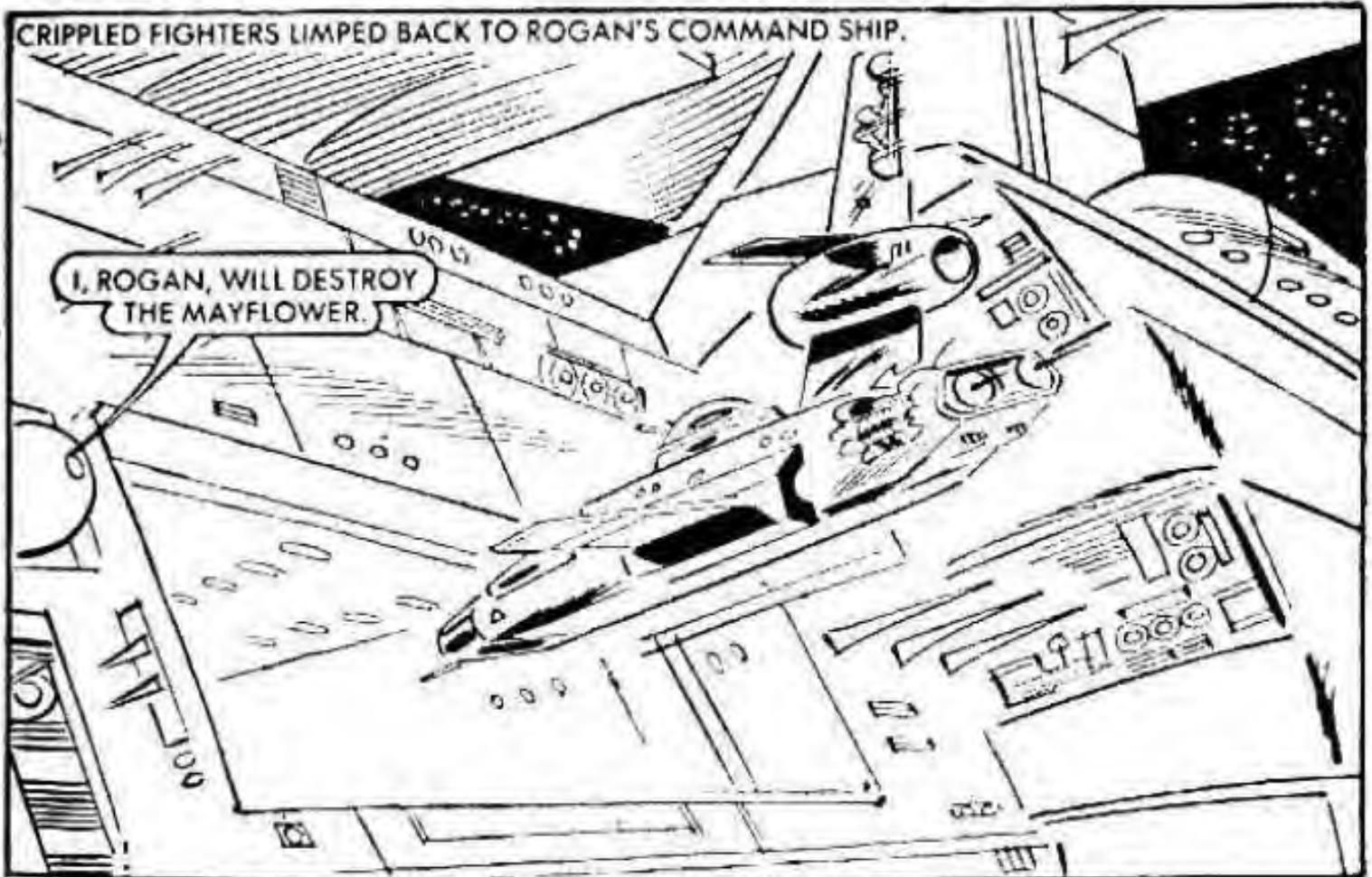
HIGH ABOVE DESTRA, THE PRESIDENT WAS ABOUT TO START FIGHTING.

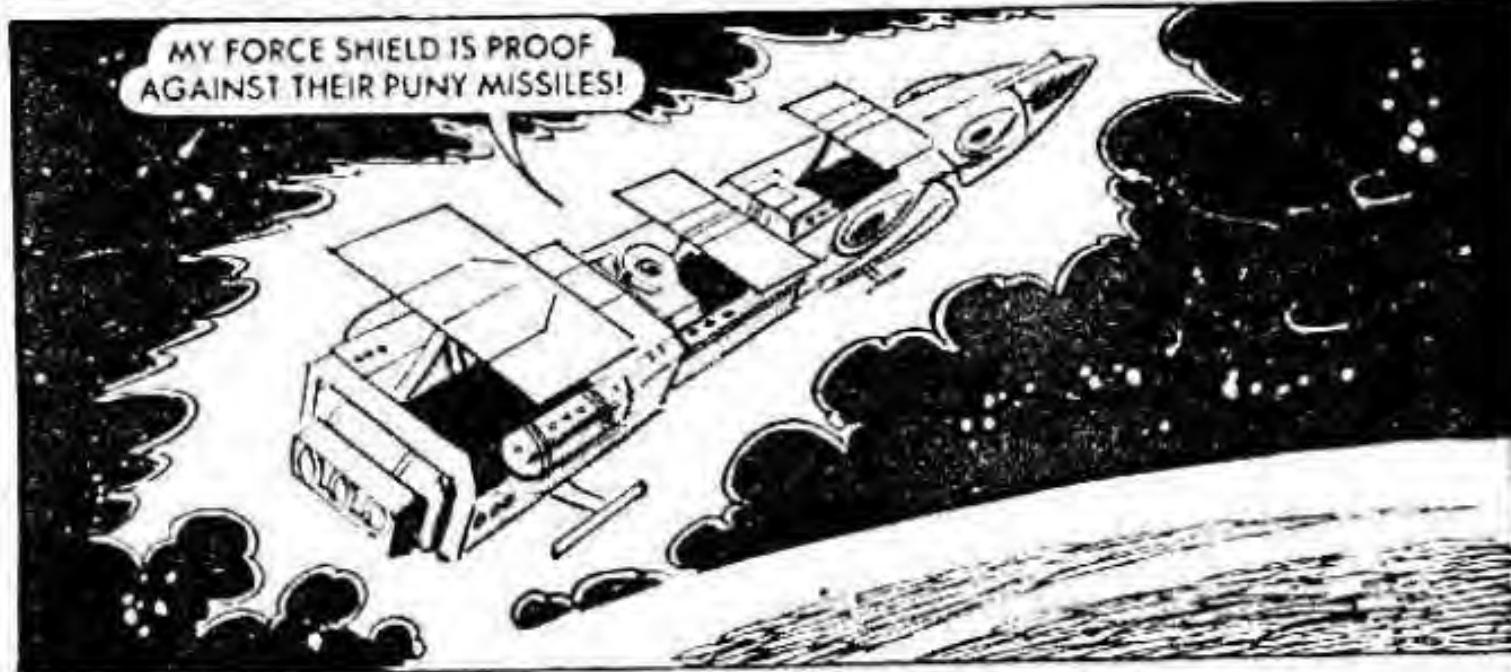
THAT'S THE LAST OF
LASER BANKS CHARGED.

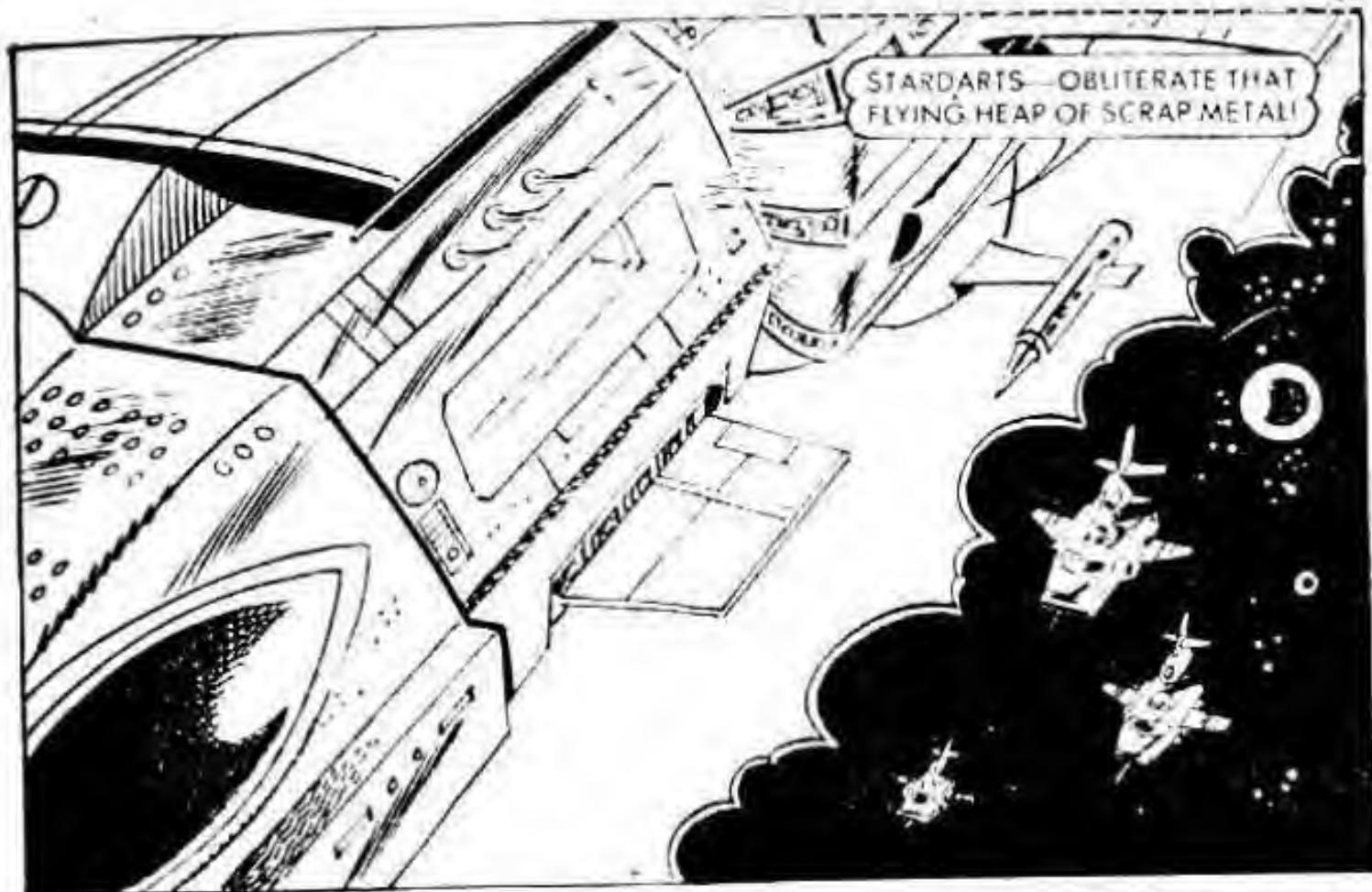
POWER NOW FEEDING ALL
CIRCUITS... 0071 TILL
IGNITION.











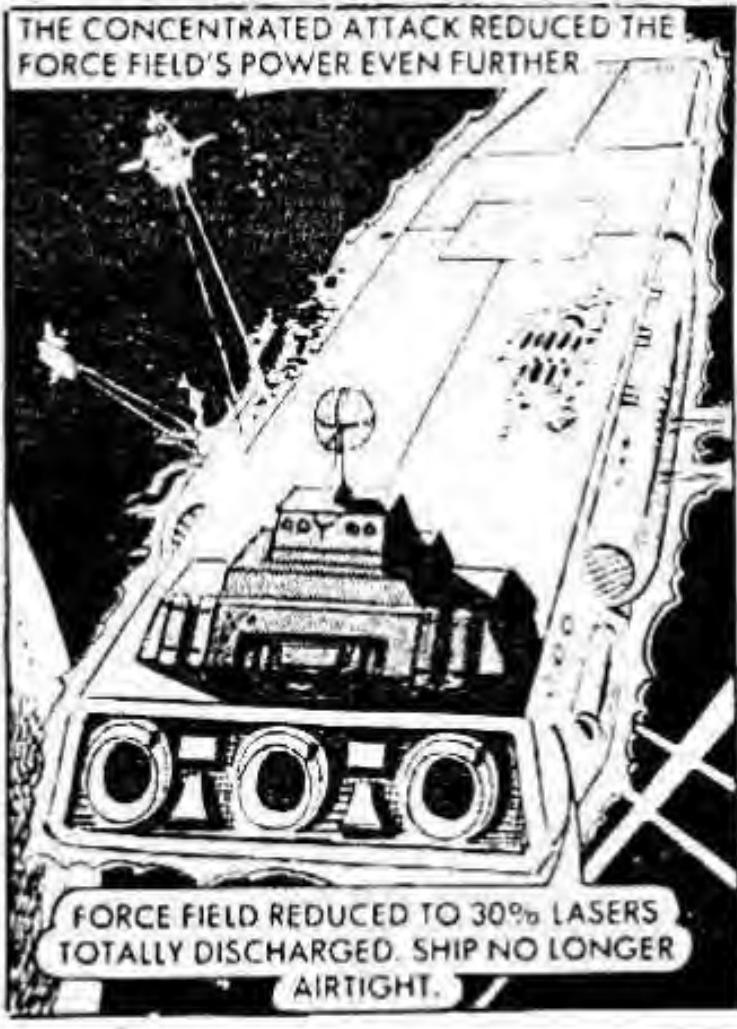


THE MISSILES WERE DEADLY.

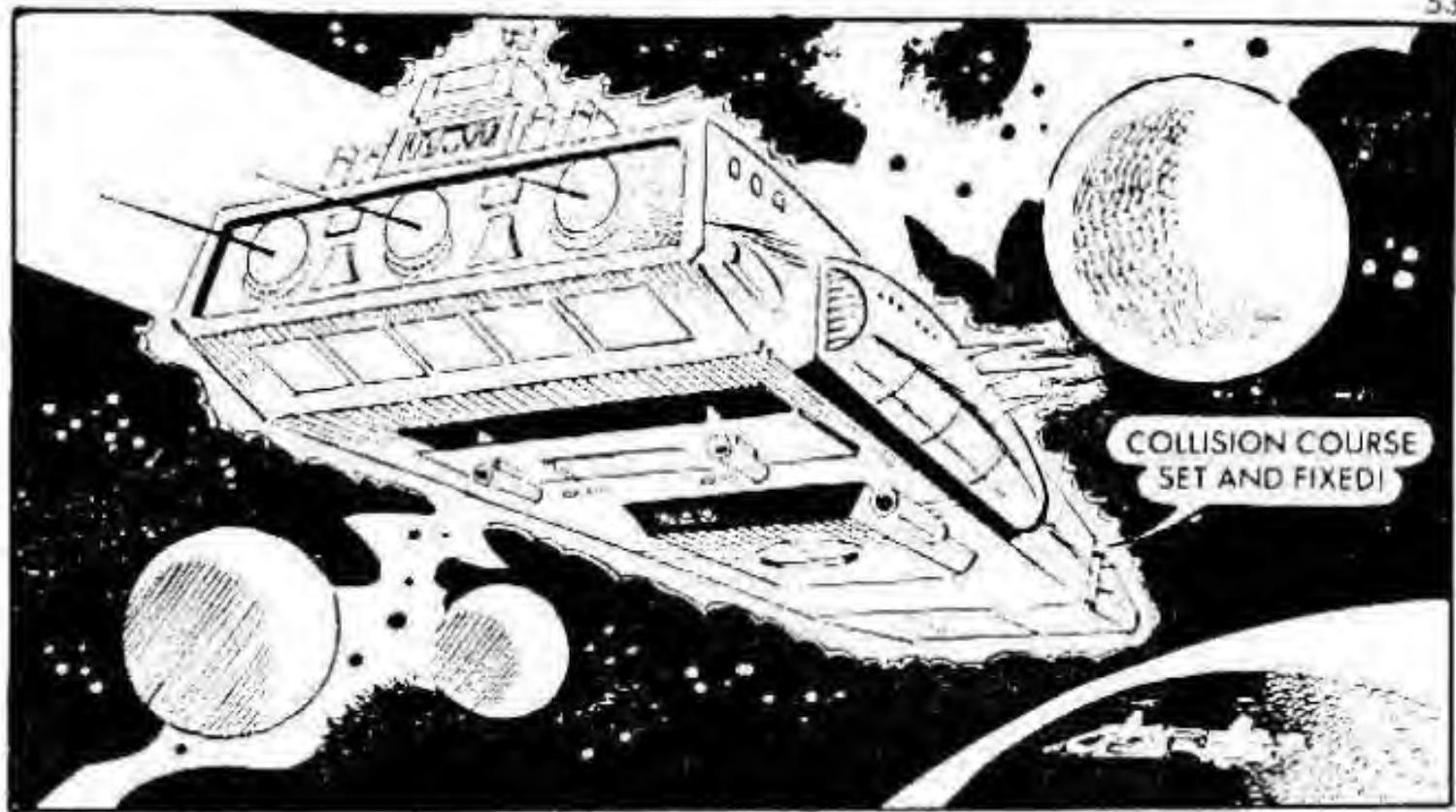


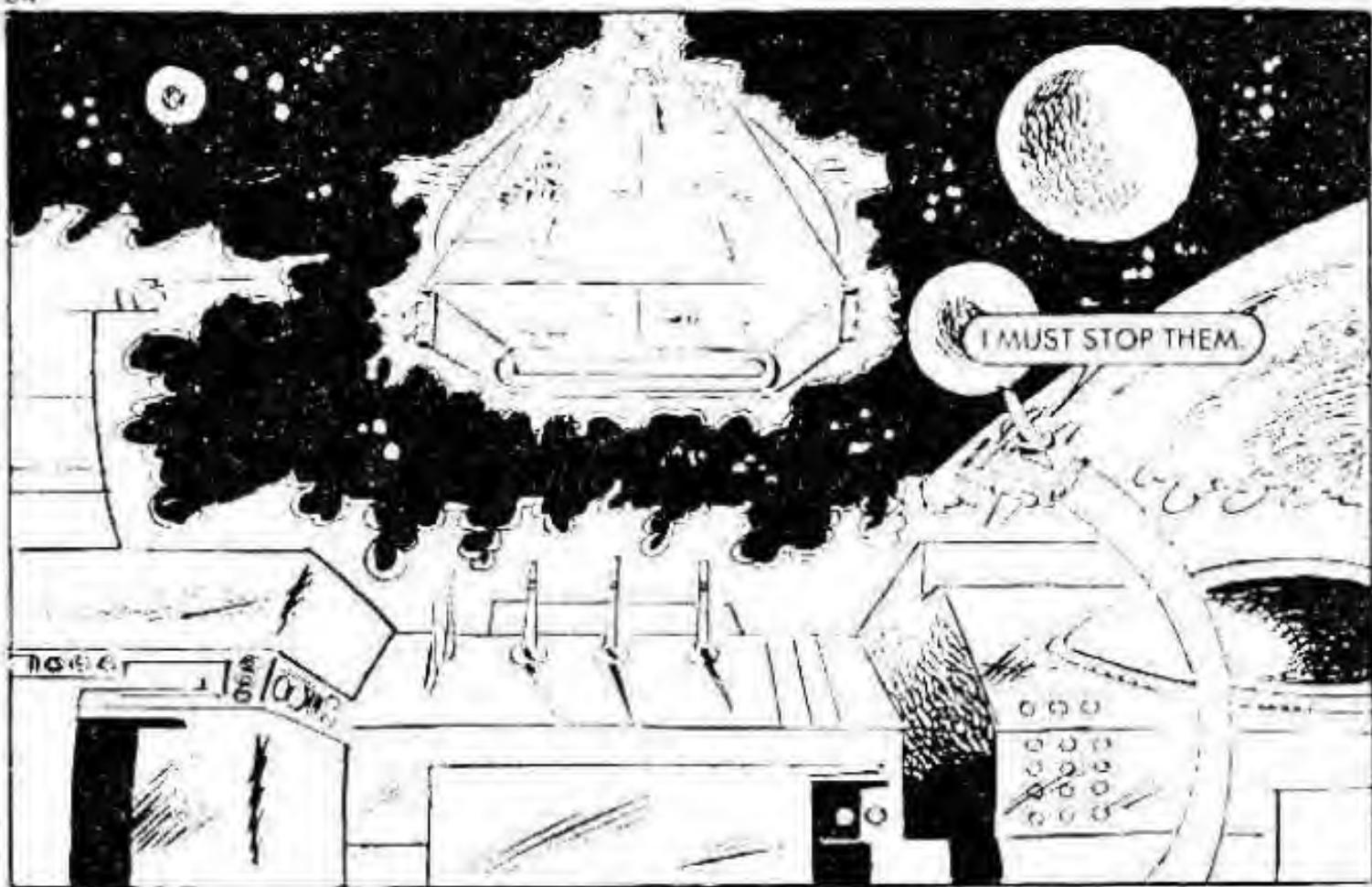




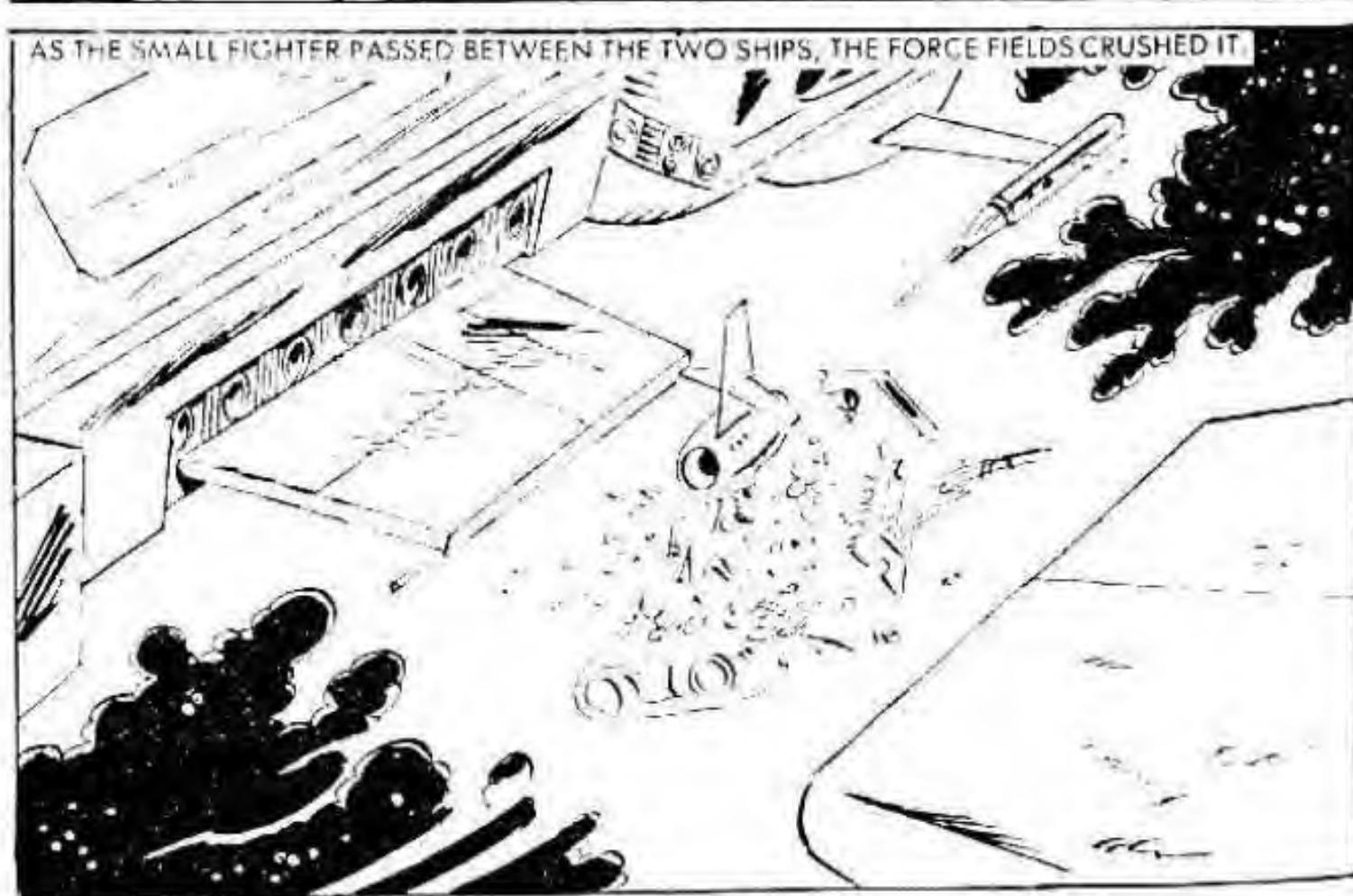








AS THE SMALL FIGHTER PASSED BETWEEN THE TWO SHIPS, THE FORCE FIELDS CRUSHED IT.



THE FORCE SHIELDS PREVENTED THE TWO STARSHIPS FROM TOUCHING EACH OTHER, BUT . . .



THE SPACE SPIN PRODUCED A CENTRIFUGAL FORCE GREATER THAN THE COMMAND SHIP'S ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY.

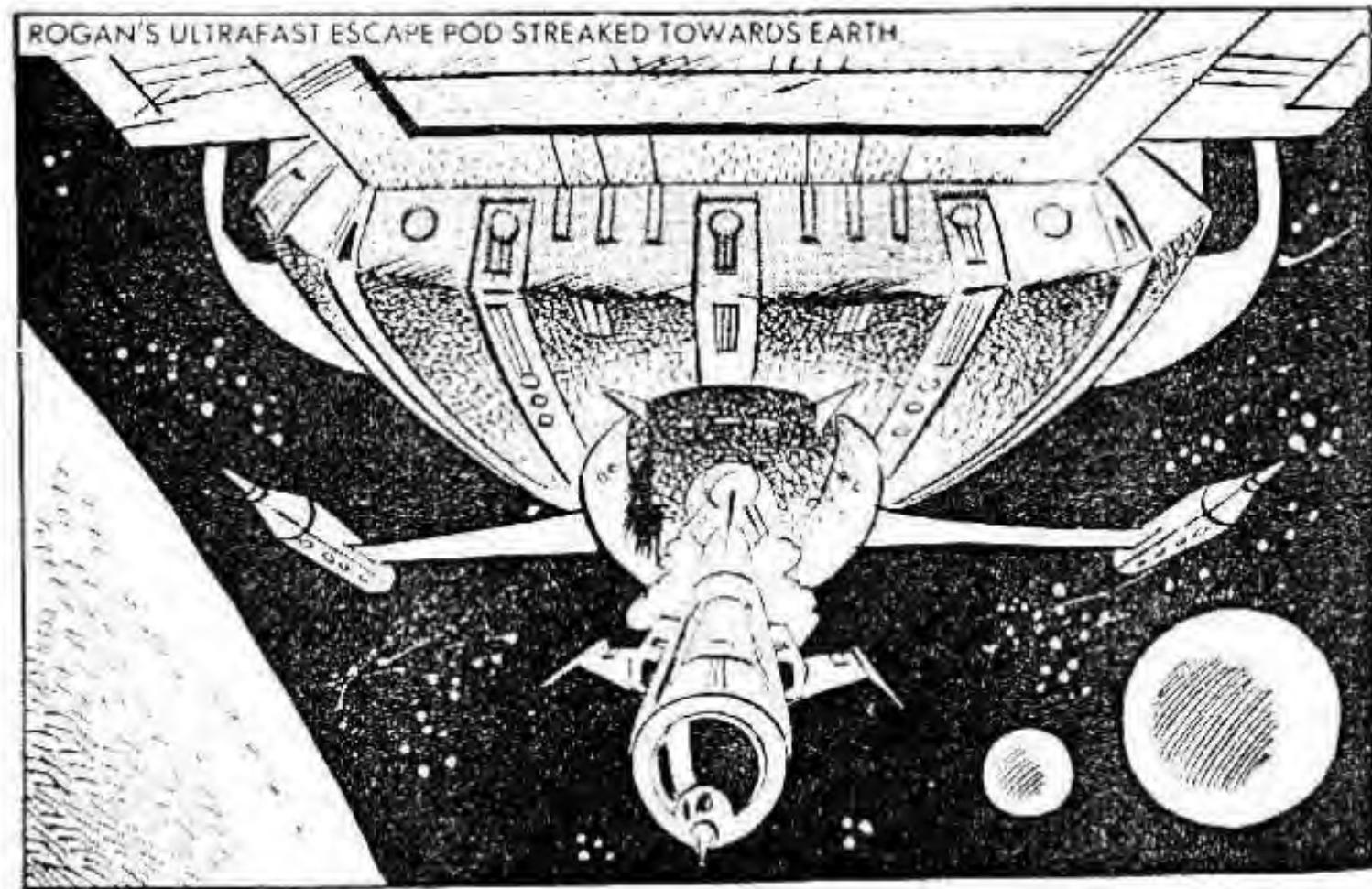


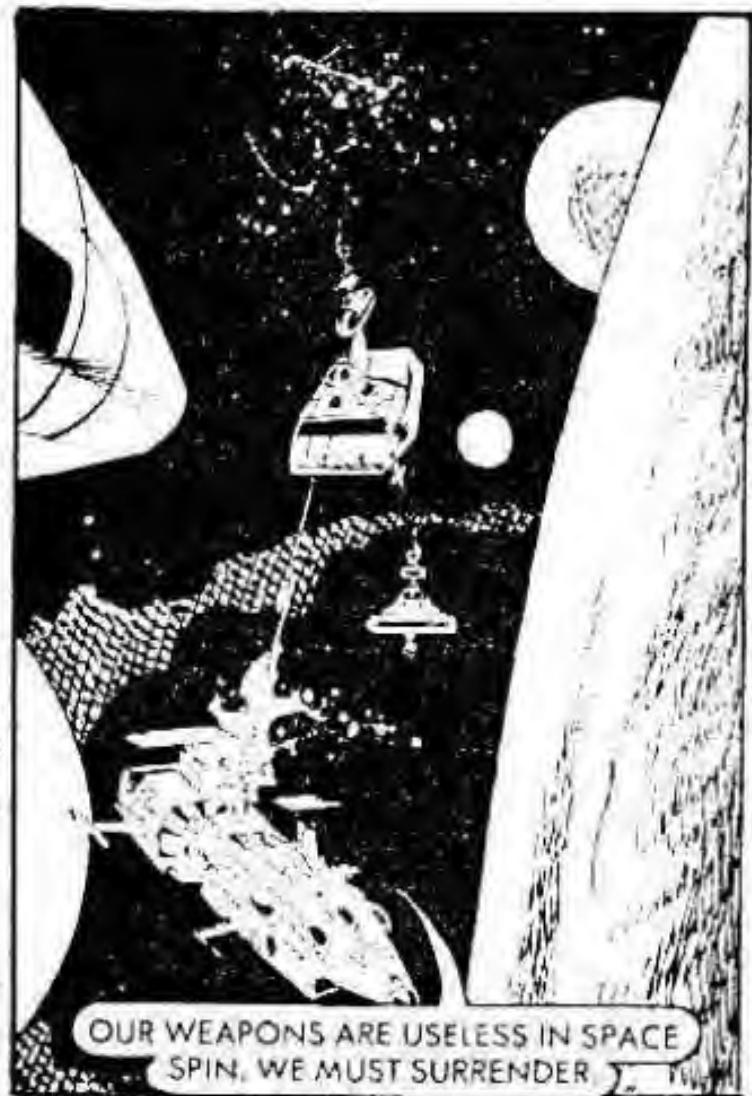






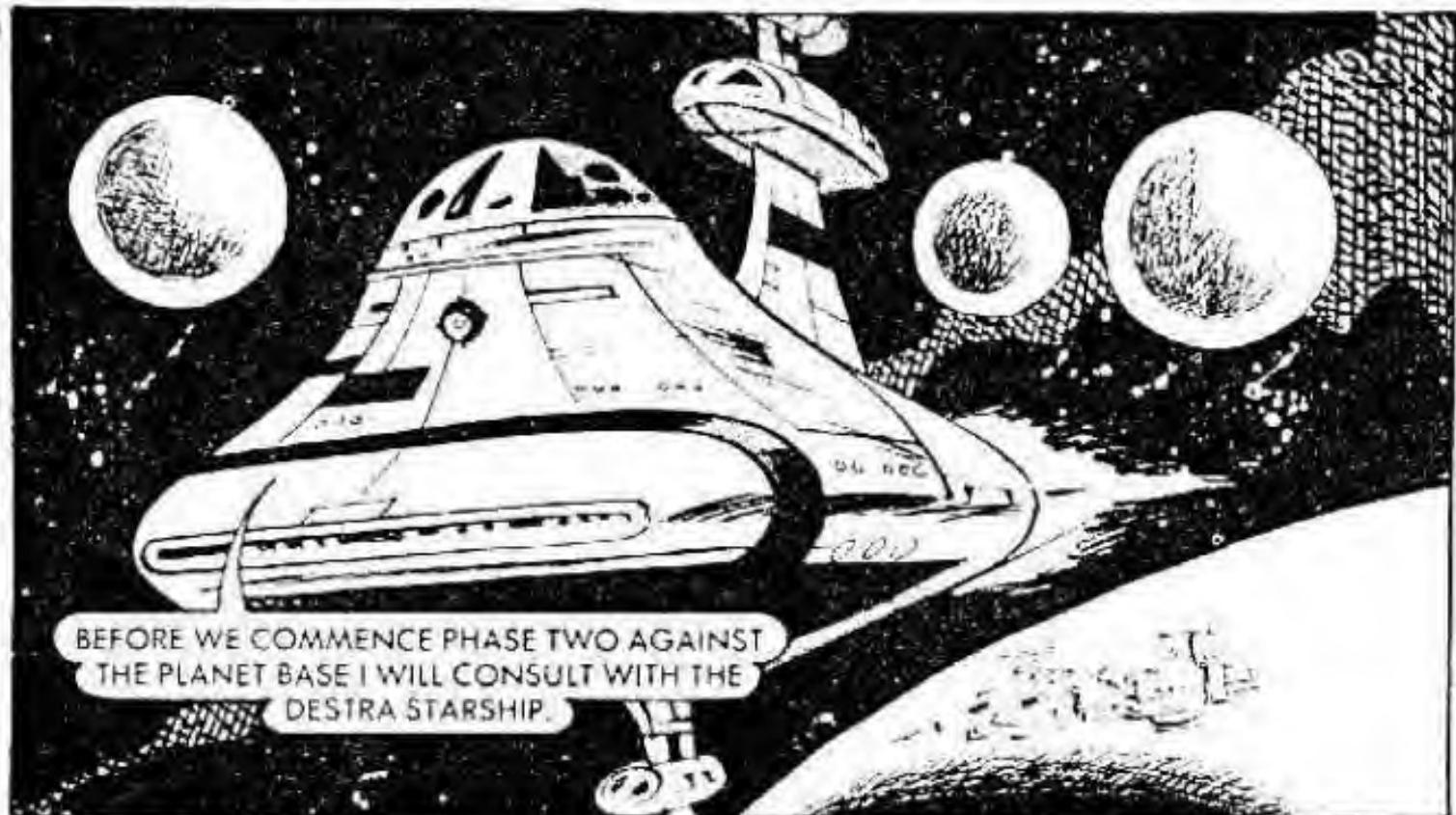
ROGAN'S ULTRAFAST ESCAPE POD STREAKED TOWARDS EARTH.





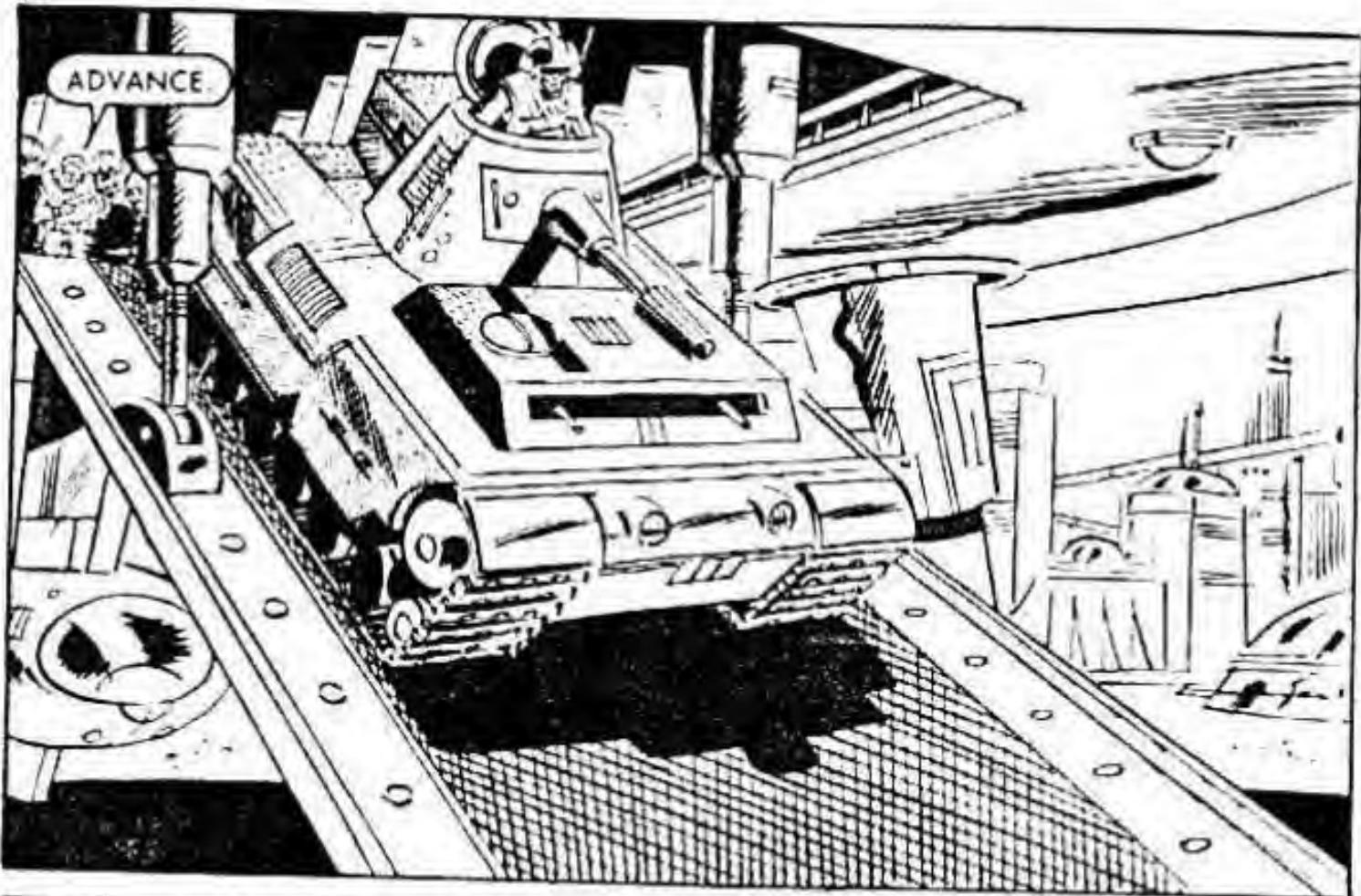
NEWS OF THE SURRENDER SOON REACHED
THE MAYFLOWER.

WE'VE BEEN
KNOCKED ONTO A
CRASH COURSE
WITH DESTRA AND
THE DRIVE IS TOO
WEAK TO WITH-
STAND THE
GRAVITATIONAL
PULL!

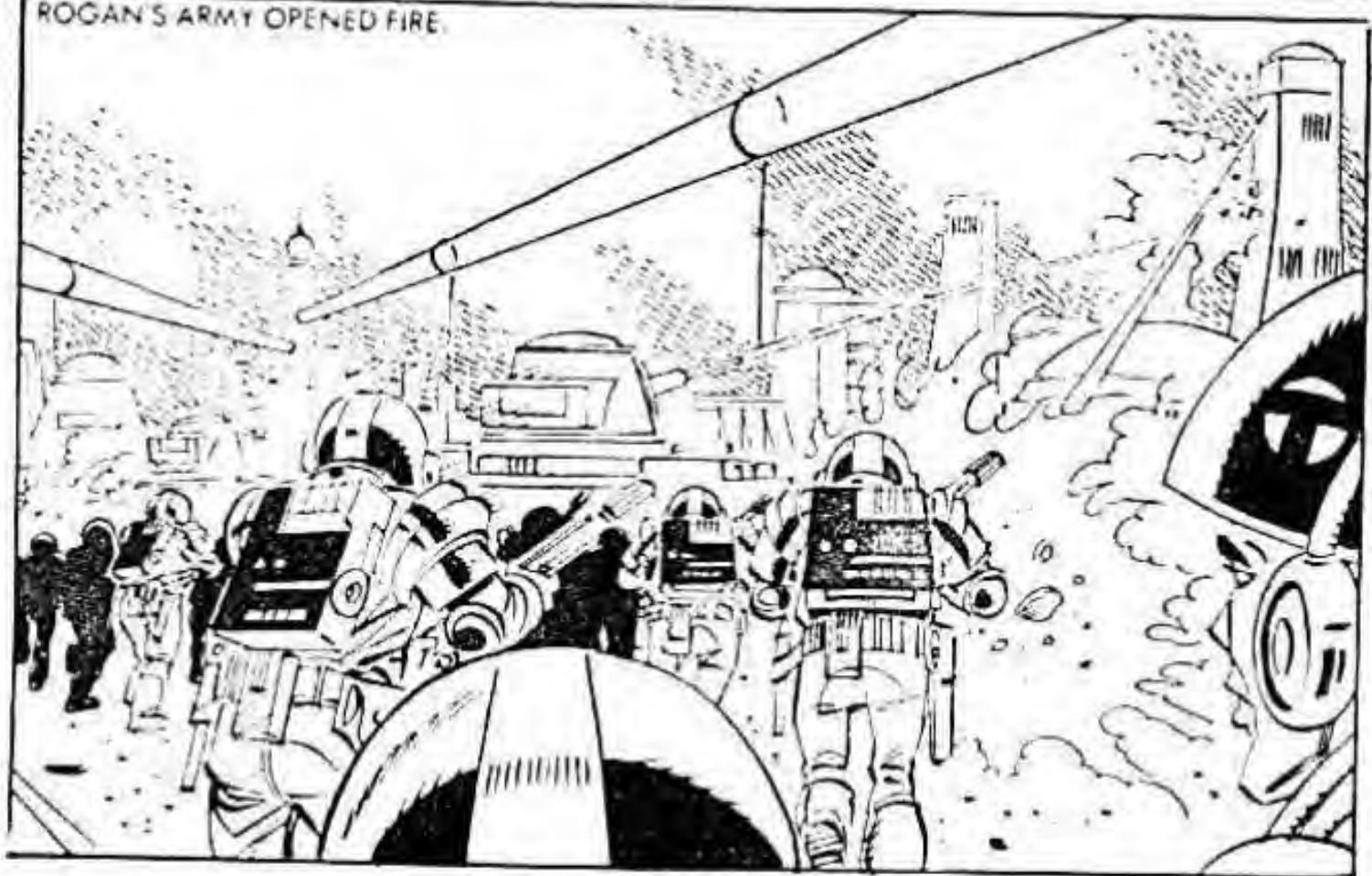








ROGAN'S ARMY OPENED FIRE.





BLO CHARGED TOWARDS ROGAN'S
COMMAND CENTRE WITH A LASER TORPEDO



WITH A LAST DESPERATE EFFORT HE THREW THE TORPEDO

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WITH ROGAN DESTROYED, DESTRA BEGAN TO RETURN TO NORMAL.



DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S
OTHER ACTION-PACKED
ADVENTURE



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IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE 41



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